

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for implementing an application on a client computer system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
  - a) receiving at said client computer system a plurality of text files wherein each of said text files defines a component of said application;
  - b) executing a program resident on said client computer system, wherein said program comprises instructions for using a combination of said text files to create said application; and
  - c) creating said application on said client computer system from said text files executing in combination according to said program.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said text files use an Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax.
3. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said client computer system is communicatively coupled to a server computer system in a computer system network, wherein said server system provides a central source for managing and distributing applications and modifications to applications.
4. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said plurality of text files received in said step a) are received from said server computer system.

5. The method as recited in Claim 3 comprising the step of:  
executing said application on said client computer system in an  
asynchronous mode, wherein said asynchronous mode comprises:  
5                   i) sending a request from said client computer system to said  
server computer system; and  
                  ii) executing said application in parallel with and while waiting for  
a response to said request.

10               6. The method as recited in Claim 3 comprising the step of:  
executing said application on said client computer system in a  
connectionless mode in the absence of communication between said client  
computer system and said server computer system.

15               7. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of text files  
received in said step a) are particular to said client computer system.

8. The method as recited in Claim 1 comprising the step of:  
receiving a new text file defining a component of said application,  
20 wherein said new text file is used in lieu of a previously received text file to  
modify said application.

9. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said component of said application pertains to a graphical user interface.

10. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said component of said 5 application pertains to communication preferences.

11. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said component of said application pertains to data management.

10 12. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said component of said application pertains to logic used with said application.

13. A computer system comprising:  
a bus;  
15 a computer-readable memory unit coupled to said bus; and  
a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for executing a method for implementing an application comprising the steps of:

a) receiving at said computer system a plurality of text files wherein each of said text files defines a component of said application;  
20 b) executing a program resident on said computer system, wherein said program comprises instructions for using a combination of said text files to create said application; and

c) creating said application on said computer system from said text files executing in combination according to said program.

14. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said text files use an  
5 Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax.

15. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said computer system is communicatively coupled to a server computer system in a computer system network, wherein said server system provides a central source for managing  
10 and distributing applications and modifications to applications.

16. The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said plurality of text files received in said step a) of said method are received from said server computer system.

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17. The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said method comprises the step of:

executing said application on said client computer system in an asynchronous mode, wherein said asynchronous mode comprises:

20 i) sending a request from said client computer system to said server computer system; and  
ii) executing said application in parallel with and while waiting for a response to said request.

18. The computer system of Claim 15 wherein said method comprises the step of:

executing said application on said client computer system in a  
5 connectionless mode in the absence of communication between said client computer system and said server computer system.

19. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said plurality of text files received in said step a) of said method are particular to said computer system.

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20. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said method comprises the step of:

receiving a new text file defining a component of said application,  
wherein said new text file is used in lieu of a previously received text file to  
15 modify said application.

21. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said component of said application pertains to a graphical user interface.

20 22. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said component of said application pertains to communication preferences.

23. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said component of said application pertains to data management.

24. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein said component of said 5 application pertains to logic used with said application.

25. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform the steps of:

- a) installing on said computer system a plurality of text files wherein 10 each of said text files defines a component of said application;
- b) installing a program on said computer system, wherein said program comprises instructions for using a combination of said text files to create said application; and
- c) creating said application on said computer system from said text files 15 executing in combination according to said program.

26. The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein said text files use an Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax.

20 27. The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein said computer system is communicatively coupled to a server computer system in a computer system network, wherein said server system provides a central source device for managing and distributing applications and modifications to applications.

28. The computer-readable medium of Claim 27 wherein said plurality of text files installed in said step a) are received from said server computer system.

5 29. The computer-readable medium of Claim 27 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform the step of:

executing said application on said computer system in an asynchronous mode, wherein said asynchronous mode comprises:

10 i) sending a request from said computer system to said server computer system; and  
ii) executing said application in parallel with and while waiting for a response to said request.

15 30. The computer-readable medium of Claim 27 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform the step of:

executing said application on said computer system in a connectionless mode in the absence of communication between said computer system and  
20 said server computer system.

31. The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein said plurality of text files installed in said step a) are particular to said computer system.

32. The computer-readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform the step of:

5        installing on said computer system a new text file defining a component of said application, wherein said new text file is used in lieu of a previously received text file to modify said application.

33. The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein said  
10      component of said application pertains to a graphical user interface.

34. The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein said component of said application pertains to communication preferences.

15      35. The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein said component of said application pertains to data management.

36. The computer-readable medium of Claim 25 wherein said component of said application pertains to logic used with said application.